

Smith Designs, Graves County Economic Development, and Pilgrims.

REMEMBERING JAMES K. JACKSON

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and honor James K. Jackson, specialist in International Trade and Finance in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service, CRS. James passed away on February 17, 2022, after a serious illness. He had a distinguished career of more than 35 years at CRS, serving Congress on international trade and economic policy issues.

James exemplified the very best of CRS during his decades of direct support for Congress. He achieved a remarkable record of accomplishment through his work for Members and congressional staff. James played a vital role in Congress' consideration of important legislation and was well known for his authoritative analysis of critical international economic and policy issues before Congress, including on foreign investment and reform of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States—CFIUS—when I chaired the Senate Banking Committee. He also was intricately involved in major trade policy legislation and debates before the Senate Finance Committee, including its work on understanding the economic effects of U.S. trade agreements before Congress. My senior staff used to tell me that they had James on speed dial during the major reform of the CFIUS process during 2017–2018, a testament to James' expertise and assistance on this major legislation.

There are many more examples of James' authoritative, nonpartisan, and objective expertise and analysis for Congress. In addition to being an expert on foreign investment and related policies, James had deep knowledge of the United States' role in the global economy and most recently was the lead CRS expert on the global effects of COVID-19, writing and consulting extensively for Congress on this issue. He had deep expertise in international economics and trade and was gifted in explaining complicated economic issues in a way that those without an economics background could understand. During the 2008–2009 global financial crisis, James played a key role in helping Congress to understand the deep interconnected nature of the crisis and its financial and economic underpinnings at work in major economies. His work in explaining the economics of trade and trade agreements was invaluable, especially during the Senate Finance Committee's consideration of major free trade agreements. The breadth and depth of James' international economic policy expertise will be truly missed as Congress continues its work on these important issues.

I offer my sincere condolences to James' family, friends, and his colleagues at CRS during this difficult

time and hope they may take comfort in the knowledge of his indelible contribution to the work of Congress on international trade and economic policy.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I also rise today to remember and honor the distinguished service of James Jackson.

For decades, James devoted his time and talent to helping Congress understand complex international trade and economic policy issues. I am thankful to have been a beneficiary of James' hard work. During the 115th Congress' when Senator CRAPO and I served as chair and ranking member of the Senate committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee undertook a substantial effort to consider, and ultimately enact, legislation that reformed the process for screening foreign investment in the United States. As Senator CRAPO noted, we relied on James' thoughtful analysis and expertise throughout the consideration of that important legislation. James briefed staff, evaluated proposed legislative language, and provided comprehensive, detailed analysis and reports during consideration of the bill. After it became law, the committee continued to rely on James to evaluate the executive branch's implementation of it.

I join Senator CRAPO in offering my sincere condolences to James' friends and family and his colleagues at CRS. They are in our thoughts during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH WHITE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I would like to recognize an outstanding public servant, Mr. Ralph White, who has dedicated his career to providing bidders for government contracts with an inexpensive and expeditious means to seek accountability within the government contracting process. Mr. White will retire on May 29, 2022, after a distinguished, 39-year career in public service, including serving 33 years at the Government Accountability Office—GAO—where he is currently a managing associate general counsel for the procurement law division.

As a Senate staffer during the beginning of his career, Mr. White was instrumental in the drafting of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, which establishes statutory authority for GAO's bid protest function, under which thousands of bid protests are filed each year. Since joining GAO in 1989, Mr. White handled bid protests as a writing attorney/hearing officer, as an assistant general counsel leading a team of GAO attorneys, and since early 2010, as a managing associate general counsel leading GAO's bid protest forum. Since becoming a managing associate general counsel, Mr. White has successfully led GAO's procurement law division through numerous large

and complicated bid protests and has been recognized by the government contracting community as a preeminent legal mind in this field. In recognition of this expertise and knowledge, he is regularly sought out to speak and provide insights into the bid protest process throughout the government, academia, and industry. Throughout his tenure, Mr. White has managed the resolution of protests that have touched upon nearly every aspect of federal procurement spending. In addition, Mr. White has received numerous awards during his GAO career, including GAO's Distinguished Service award in 2013 and the General Counsel's Award in March 2010 for outstanding leadership on several initiatives relating to GAO's bid protest process, as well as contributions to many significant bid protest decisions.

Thanks to the dedication and expertise of Mr. White, our government contracting process provides bidders with an inexpensive and expeditious means to report violations of procurement law and regulation, to the benefit of all that value transparency, accountability, and functionality in government.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL SCOTT WILKINSON

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, today I honor a superb leader, liaison, and soldier. After a year of service with the Army Office of the Chief, legislative liaison, as the chief, Army Senate Liaison Division, COL Scott Wilkinson was selected to serve as the deputy commanding officer for Support with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Colonel Wilkinson's distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Army and this Chamber.

Colonel Wilkinson grew up in an Army family. He received his commission in 1994 as the Distinguished Military Graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ROTC program and his undergraduate degree from Harvard University. An aviation officer by designation, Colonel Wilkinson has led our Nation's young men and women at home and abroad, most prominently as the chief of staff for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, located at Fort Bragg, NC, and commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, located at Fort Campbell, KY. Colonel Wilkinson has also served in multiple command and staff positions within the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Known as the Night Stalkers, soldiers of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment are highly trained and have been actively and continuously engaged in the combat operations since October 2001.

The Army has consistently relied upon Colonel Wilkinson for his exceptional leadership and unparalleled